

We Claim:

1. A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas; and

drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion.

2. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet.

3. The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface.

4. The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item with an air-permeable supporting surface.

5. The method according to claim 3, which further comprises disposing the clothing item between two air-permeable surfaces.

6. The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item by a gas jet.

7. The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other having a total force on the clothing item equal in magnitude.

8. The method according to claim 6, which further comprises: providing at least two gas jets disposed on opposite sides of the clothing item and facing one another; and

directing gas streams on both sides of the clothing item with a total force on the clothing item being equal in magnitude.

9. The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with one of the gas jets having a higher force than another one of the gas jets.

10. The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the

clothing item with the gas jets having substantially the same force on both sides.

11. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises moving the at least one gas jet and the clothing item relative to one another.

12. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the at least one gas jet with heated gas.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the gas stream contains heated gas.

14. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the at least one gas jet with water vapor.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein the gas stream contains water vapor.

16. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises, at an end of the drying step, heating the gas jet to calender the clothing item initially with substantially dry and heated air and then with substantially dry and non-heated air.

17. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a

directional distribution of the at least one gas jet while drying the clothing item.

18. A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas; and

drying the clothing item by directing the gas stream to at least one portion of the clothing item at an angle to the one portion.

19. A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas;

drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion;

supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet;

supporting the clothing item by exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other;

moving the at least one gas jet and the clothing item relative to one another;

providing the at least one gas jet with at least one of heated gas and water vapor;

at an end of the drying step, heating the gas jet to calender the clothing item initially with substantially dry and heated air and then with substantially dry and non-heated air; and

varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one gas jet while drying the clothing item.

20. An apparatus for drying items of clothing, comprising:

a housing defining a treatment space;

devices disposed in said housing for disposing items of clothing within said treatment space;

a blower disposed at said housing for producing a gas flow;  
and

nozzles disposed in said housing and communicating with said blower, said nozzles being aligned to direct the gas flow produced by said blower to an item of clothing in said treatment space.

21. The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said nozzles are aligned with respect to one portion of the clothing item to direct the gas flow in a direction not parallel to the one portion.

22. The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said nozzles direct the gas flow at an angle with respect to one portion of the clothing item.